

or even one with an allowance, that they are not willing to spend forty dollars a year for a preparatory course which is not required by hospital managers.

We wish, further, that this instruction shall comprise special courses for those who nurse the poor in their own homes. It is absolutely necessary that such nurses should have some knowledge of sociology and should make an extended study of hygiene, for besides nursing they must be health missionaries and sympathetic in all the family relations.

Finally, we ardently desire to establish special teaching for those who intend to fill the difficult and complex position of head nurse and directress. We have much to do before we can reach our ideal, but the examples of work and solidarity that the associations affiliated with the International Council give us, encourage us to persevere and to follow bravely along the road which leads to success.

THE HOSPITAL ECONOMICS COURSE.

BY M. ADELAIDE NUTTING

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It has been interesting to note the result of opening the special course of lectures on Hospital Economics to other nurses than the regular students in that department. Nine outside students have registered for the entire course, and about an equal number are registering for one or more of the separate courses, while somewhere near fifty letters and inquiries on the subject have been received during the month. From their tenor, and from conversations with persons interested, it seems that the ground covered by these lectures is apparently ground with which a good many nurses filling hospital positions feel they should be familiar. But most of them say frankly that the difficulties are almost insurmountable in the way of pursuing regularly any course of study which requires attendance on even one lecture per week.

Inasmuch as the women holding the positions of assistants and head nurses in hospitals are usually preparing themselves in that way for further administrative work, it does seem desirable that they should not entirely drop their studies, but rather that they should continue, and be encouraged to continue them, in some form. One might even go to the length of saying that useful courses of classes or lectures might perhaps be specially arranged for them.

The question was asked not very long ago, how the women who had taken the course here were succeeding, and what kind of impression

they were making upon the educational work of the schools in which they were occupied. In an effort to get some definite information upon this point, letters were sent to a few superintendents of hospitals who either now have, or have recently had, Hospital Economics graduates as assistants. Their views on this subject, which are clear and tolerably convincing, are here given:

One superintendent writes:

Those two who have served us have brought into the school something quite definite and tangible in laying out a course of instruction, which never existed before. It has been like exchanging an uncertainty for a certainty, and it has been a very helpful element to encounter when one has to combat the opinions of numerous medical men, all having different ideas and opinions as to how nurses should be trained.

That the graduates of Teachers' College not only know their subjects, but are able to quote authorities, is, I feel, the best protection a school can have. The refining influence has also been great.

Another letter reads:

She was a good teacher, systematic, and knowing how to lead up to the object to be attained; and I knew she gained her ability from the course, for she had no other way of gaining it.

She brought to the work the ideal that we owe much to the school; I mean by *that*, everything was not made subservient to the hospital.

She was practical also, and gave *me* a good many points that I know she must have gained from her Domestic Science.

She was exceedingly useful to us when we were planning new buildings and altering old ones.

This should be gratifying to those who have taken such great pains with this subject during the last few years.

The Appointment Secretary of the college reports that she has had during the year seventy-one applications for women to fill various hospital positions, and that of these she has been able to fill twenty.

Records show that up to the present date fifty-eight nurses have taken the course here. Nine of them have taken the full two-year course, leading up to the diploma, while three have stayed on for a third year, to pursue special studies.

Some account of the special work done by these students will be given later, but after careful study of the situation, one inclines to think that for a really satisfactory course of instruction here, two years are necessary.

At the beginning of the year a complete financial statement will

be made, but one does not feel like waiting until that date to speak of the splendid contribution made to the work here by the New York State Society, at its last meeting. In pledging, first, two hundred and fifty dollars to the endowment; second, two hundred dollars for present expenses; and third, one hundred and fifty dollars a year until the endowment is secured, the Society not only distinguished itself for generous action, but for affording practical relief for present difficulties, which we most gratefully recognize and acknowledge.

It is necessary for us to remember that while we are securing the endowment, our work must still go on; not only must its present needs be met, but we should perhaps be ready to make certain changes and developments at an early date, whether the full amount required for the endowment is secured, or not. The acts of the nurses throughout the country in their efforts to secure means for their advanced education speak louder than words.

No matter how well satisfied the patient, the physician, or the community may be, the actual fact stands forth that nurses themselves *know* that the welfare of the community, and the interests of the institutions and of the individuals composing them are served best, and served only, when the same opportunities for study and progress are opened to them that are freely accorded to the members of other professions—the professions that not only set a high standard, but require its attainment.

At recent meetings of the executive officers of the Society of Superintendents, and of the Associated Alumnae, it was decided to appoint a special committee to take charge of the funds for this course, and to consider ways and means of caring for and increasing them. The Committee consists of Miss Damer, President of the Associated Alumnae, Miss Samuel, Superintendent of Nurses, Roosevelt Hospital, and Miss Nutting as Chairman, who in this capacity wishes to acknowledge the receipt of the following sums:

For the endowment:

Alumnae of the New York Hospital.....	\$200.00
Alumnae of the German Hospital, New York.....	25.00
Alumnae of the National Homeopathic Hospital, Washington, D. C.	100.00
From Mrs. Bertha Frank, Baltimore, through Miss Ada Carr..	200.00

For current expenses:

Alumnae of the New York Hospital.....	\$25.00
New York State Society.....	200.00
A Friend, through Miss Lena Lighburn, Syracuse, N. Y.....	15.25